

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-524. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Homestead, Florida relative to the renaming of the Everglades National Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-525. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Whereas certain actions, although arguably related to one person's free expression, nevertheless raise issues concerning public decency, public peace, and the rights of expression and sacred values of others; and

Whereas there are symbols of our national soul, such as the Washington Monument, the United States Capitol Building, and memorials to our greatest leaders, that are the property of every American and are therefore worthy of protection from desecration and dishonor; and

Whereas the American Flag was most nobly born in the struggle for independence that began with "The Shot Heard Round the World" on a bridge in Concord, Massachusetts; and

Whereas, in the War of 1812, the American Flag stood boldly against foreign invasion, symbolized the stand of a young and brave nation against the mighty world power of that day and, in its courageous resilience, inspired our national anthem; and

Whereas, in the Second World War, the American Flag was the banner that led the American battle against fascist imperialism from the depths of Pearl Harbor to the mountaintop of Iwo Jima, and from defeat in North Africa's Kasserine Pass to victory in the streets of Hitler's Germany; and

Whereas Alaska's star was woven into the fabric of the Flag in 1959, and that 49th star has become an integral part of the Union; and

Whereas the American Flag symbolizes the ideals that good and decent people fought for in Vietnam, often at the expense of their lives or at the cost of cruel condemnation upon their return home; and

Whereas the American Flag symbolizes the sacred values for which loyal Americans risked and often lost their lives in securing civil rights for all Americans, regardless of race, sex, or creed; and

Whereas the American Flag was carried to the moon as a banner of goodwill, vision, and triumph on behalf of all mankind; and

Whereas the American Flag proudly represents the United States at Olympic events; and

Whereas the American Flag to this day is a most honorable and worthy banner of a nation that is thankful for its strengths and committed to curing its faults and remains the destination of millions of immigrants attracted by the universal power of the American ideal; and

Whereas the law as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court no longer accords to the Stars and Stripes that reverence, respect, and dignity befitting the banner of that most noble experiment of a nation-state; and

Whereas House Joint Resolution 54, which passed the United States House of Representatives and has been referred to the United States Senate, proposes an amendment to the United States Constitution stating, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States"; and

Whereas Senate Joint Resolution 40, introduced in the United States Senate, proposes

an amendment to the United States Constitution stating, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States"; and

Whereas it is only fitting that people everywhere should lend their voices to a forceful call for restoration to the Stars and Stripes of a proper station under law and decency; Be it *Resolved by the Alaska State Legislature*, That the Congress of the United States is requested to pass House Joint Resolution 54 or Senate Joint Resolution 40, or comparable legislation, and present to the legislatures of the several states an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would specifically provide the Congress power to prohibit the physical desecration of the Flag of the United States; this request does not constitute a call for a constitutional convention; and be it

Further resolved, That the legislatures of the several states are invited to join with Alaska to secure ratification of the proposed amendment.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the governors of each of the several states; the presiding officers of each house of the legislatures of the several states; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, United States Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, United States Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-526. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 60

Whereas, The United States Air Force Reserve operational unit, which is now the 940th Air Refueling Wing (940th ARW), has been in the Sacramento Valley since 1963; and

Whereas, The 940th ARW, which has been located at various times at Mather Air Force Base, McClellan Air Force Base, and Beale Air Force Base, has a proud tradition of supporting the nation's defense since the 940th ARW's activation; and

Whereas, The mission of the 940th ARW is to perform global air refueling and strategic airlift operations, which allow other aircraft to fly far beyond their normal range by overcoming the restrictions imposed by limited onboard fuel capacity; and

Whereas, The 940th ARW has participated in many conventional and humanitarian efforts that were undertaken by the Department of Defense and the United Nations, including rebuilding schools in Honduras, providing food and medical supplies to Somalia, and deployment in support of democracy in Haiti; and

Whereas, The 940th ARW was the first Air Force Reserve unit to establish ground operations in the Middle East as a part of Desert Shield when it deployed hundreds of United States military reservists to Saudi Arabia in August 1991, just days after the invasion of Kuwait; and

Whereas, The 940th ARW continues to support peace in Bosnia by supporting joint service missions and conducting peace-keeping operations in the skies above the former Yugoslavia; and

Whereas, The 940th ARW flies KC-135E model aircraft equipped with TF-33 engines that are reaching the end of their 10-year to 15-year life span; and

Whereas, These engines are of 1960's technology and do not meet contemporary international or United States noise, emission, and fuel efficiency standards; and

Whereas, Conversion to the KC-135R model engine would provide each aircraft with 26 percent more thrust on takeoff and 18 percent improved fuel consumption, offering increased offload capacity of 20,000 pounds of fuel; and

Whereas, The KC-135R model engine exceeds in-flight noise standards and offers a 69 percent reduction in in-flight engine emissions; and

Whereas, These engines are widely used in the commercial sector, making repair and parts available worldwide; and

Whereas, The 940th ARW is the only air refueling wing positioned in the central west coast that is capable of conducting or hosting "bridge" refueling operations for global deployment of United States Armed Forces to the Pacific region; and

Whereas, Conversion to the KC-135R aircraft with the multiport refueling system would allow the 940th ARW to cost-effectively support United States Marine Corps and United States Navy aircraft that are based at El Centro, Lemoore, and Miramar, California, and at Fallon, Nevada, as well as other locations worldwide; and

Whereas, The 940th ARW has been moved from Mather AFB to McClellan AFB due to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC); and

Whereas, Conversion to the KC-135R model engine would ensure that the 940th ARW remains a viable-force structure asset and would preserve, for the Department of Defense and the nation, the skills of its 950 members, including 185 full-time employees of the unit who live in the central valley, including Sacramento, El Dorado, Yolo, Yuba, Sutter, Placer, and San Joaquin Counties; and

Whereas, Conversion to the KC-135R model engine would protect the 940th ARW's \$22,000,000 contribution to the local economy in the form of maintaining salaries and operating expenses; and

Whereas, The 940th ARW creates an estimated 300 secondary jobs; and

Whereas, The loss of the 940th ARW would have a significant negative impact on the region's economy; and

Whereas, Resource limitations may not allow the United States Air Force Reserve to fund the conversion of both of its remaining KC-135E units to the KC-135R aircraft, since the Air Force Reserve Command has earmarked funding for the conversion of four additional aircraft, but has not decided which of the two remaining KC-135E model units will be converted; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to endorse, support, and fund the 940th ARW as the next KC-135 unit to convert to KC135-R model aircraft, because that conversion would ensure that the 940th ARW remains a relevant, capable, and necessary part of the United States Air Force mission in the 21st century and a viable and productive asset to the Department of Defense, the State of California, and the nation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to each member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

POM-527. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California; to the Committee on Appropriations.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 63

Whereas, The Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve contains within it two sections of

school lands and, upon sale, the value of the school lands is to become available to the State of California for the purposes of retired teacher benefits; and

Whereas, The federal government, in the 1996 Defense Authorization Act, recognized and provided a means to adjudicate California's claim to revenues from the sale of the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve; and

Whereas, The State of California, through the Governor and the Attorney General, have complied with all requirements and have reached agreement with the federal government on the state's claim; and

Whereas, The agreement between the Secretary of Energy and the State of California, pursuant to the 1996 Defense Authorization Act, provides that 9 percent of the net sale value will be used for California; and

Whereas, The sale has been completed and approximately three hundred twenty million dollars (\$320,000,000) is the state's 9 percent share; and

Whereas, The funds received from the sale of the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve will be used to provide retirement benefits to those teachers who have lost most of the value of their pension to inflation; and

Whereas, These teachers are mainly over 80 years old and have the lowest pensions from the State Teachers' Retirement System; and

Whereas, The federal government and the President have included, within the 1999 fiscal year budget proposals, the sum of thirty-six million dollars (\$36,000,000) as the first payment pursuant to the agreement; and

Whereas, The State of California believes that the appropriation should be made and honored at the earliest date possible; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to approve the appropriation included in the 1999 fiscal year proposed energy appropriation in the bill appropriating funds for the support of the Department of the Interior; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-528. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Hawaii relative to an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding term limits; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-529. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Illinois; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 505

Whereas, The United States General Accounting Office issued a report entitled, "Proprietary Schools; Millions Spent to Train Students for Oversupplied Occupations", claiming that an oversupply of cosmetologists exists; and

Whereas, In reality, a serious shortage of cosmetologists exists; hundreds of job opportunities in salons are not being filled, which has resulted in salon clients being turned away; and

Whereas, While compiling data for the report, the General Accounting Office did not talk to anyone in the private sector, including salon owners, trade schools, and state and national associations; and

Whereas, The report used statistics from state-level labor market data, which are inaccurate because employers and job seekers do not use unemployment offices, employees

rarely use Labor Department offices, and employers use direct marketing and classified advertisements instead; and

Whereas, In counting available places for job openings, the General Accounting Office incorrectly counted each chain of stores as only one entity, when each of their multiple locations should be counted as a separate retail outlet to more accurately reflect the need to fill the multitude of openings that are immediately available; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninetieth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That we urge the U.S. Congress to insure that federal financial aid assistance continues for cosmetology training; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

POM-530. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Illinois; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 547

Whereas, The United States' embargo against Cuba, imposed 35 years ago, has increasingly created physical hardships for the people of Cuba, depriving them of much needed food and medicines and exposing them, including the children, to the effects of malnutrition and other severe health concerns; and

Whereas, The recent visit to Cuba by Pope John Paul II focused world attention on the needs of the Cuban people and called for mutually beneficial reconciliation and the lifting of the United States' embargo against Cuba; and

Whereas, Many Cuban-Americans living in the United States as American citizens have families that are being subjected to these hardships and would want to help their families without breaking the laws of the United States; and

Whereas, The State of Illinois, a leader in education, commerce, agriculture, and technology, stands to benefit from the potential economic development and trade that could be established with the island nation of Cuba; and

Whereas, The Congress of the United States is currently considering HR 1951 and S 1391, which seek to lift the embargo against Cuba for the purpose of making available humanitarian aid in the form of food and medicines; therefore be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninetieth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That we urge the passage and enactment of HR 1951 and S 1391 to lift the United States' embargo for humanitarian reasons and that the delivery of food and medicine to the Cuban people be allowed; and that such an adjustment in our foreign policy reflects America's humanitarianism that transcends political ideology; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

POM-531. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Illinois; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51

Whereas, The current State sales tax on coal burned in Illinois raises approximately \$60 million dollars each year in revenue for the State; and

Whereas, Ninety percent of Illinois coal is purchased by the electric utility industry,

and about one-half of the electricity used in the State comes from coal-burning plants; and

Whereas, The 1990 Federal Clean Air Act amendments have resulted in fuel switching from Illinois high-sulfur coal to western, low-sulfur coal to generate electricity; and

Whereas, The sale of Illinois coal has continued to decrease, due primarily to increased competition from western, low-sulfur coal, resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs directly related to coal mining; and

Whereas, Illinois coal is mined in 18 counties and accounts for as much as 16% of employment and 23% of personal income in individual counties; and

Whereas, The coal mining industry provides approximately 5,000 jobs and more than 17,000 spin-off jobs in the State; and

Whereas, Almost \$800 million dollars has been spent on clean coal technology projects to expand the use of high-sulfur Illinois coal; and

Whereas, It is important to keep the Illinois coal industry competitive because coal is the State's most abundant and economically important natural resource; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninetieth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, the Senate concurring herein; That a 12-member Task Force be formed to study the feasibility of eliminating the sales tax on Illinois coal; the Task Force shall consist of the Directors, or their designees, of the Department of Revenue and the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs; a member of the Illinois Coal Development Board (within the Department of Natural Resources); the President of the United Mine Workers; the Vice President of the Illinois Coal Association; one member from the Governor's office; 2 members appointed by the President of the Senate; 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; appointments made by the General Assembly shall be made within 30 days after this Resolution is adopted; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor no later than January 1, 1999; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. DODD):

S. 2436. A bill to require that jewelry imported from another country be indelibly marked with the country of origin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED:

S. 2437. A bill to require that jewelry boxes imported from another country be indelibly marked with the country of origin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2438. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2001, the duty on parts for use in the manufacture of certain high-performance loudspeakers; to the Committee on Finance.